

Rights Movement and the passage of civil rights legislation in Congress in a game-based, interactive learning environment. Continuing to innovate and make history relevant to today's students will ensure our next generation can prepare for our future challenges by learning from the past. Kevin continually engages with my office to educate his students which inspires his students to become more active citizens of the United States.

In 2013, I had the honor of meeting with Kevin in D.C. to congratulate him on his 2012 American Civic Education Teacher Award. I am proud once again to congratulate Kevin on his 2016 National History Teacher of the Year award. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kevin for his contributions to our schools, history education, and most importantly to our students. As the daughter, sister and mom of teachers, I know the difficult, yet rewarding, job he has. The very best teachers have a deep passion for their subject matter, devoting themselves to not only sharing wisdom but igniting enthusiasm and excitement in their pupils. In a time when there is concern for declining civic engagement Kevin Cline is guiding the next generation of Indiana students to be knowledgeable, passionate, and engaged members of their community and the United States. Congratulations Kevin, your award is well-deserved.

HONORING UPROSE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to UPROSE, a pillar of social justice organizing in New York City and Brooklyn's oldest Puerto Rican/Latino community based organization. This year, UPROSE will celebrate five decades of fighting for progress and advancing the rights of New York's working families and people of color.

UPROSE was founded during the civil rights movement and has made significant strides over the last five decades. The organization has helped prevent polluting power plants from being located in lower income neighborhoods. It has impacted transportation policy, improving transit options for hardworking Brooklyn communities. The organization has made fighting climate change a centerpiece of its agenda. Indeed, it has sent three young people of color to Antarctica and one to the North Pole on scientific expeditions, to observe these environmental issues firsthand.

Likewise, UPROSE has been at the forefront of ensuring that our local industrial sector continues to blossom, while providing good paying, union jobs for local residents in the community.

Centered near Brooklyn's Sunset Park, UPROSE has always stood for this neighborhood's diversity. With a thriving immigrant population and more affordable housing than many parts of Brooklyn, Sunset Park attracts new waves of working people every year. UPROSE has stood with them for generations, empowering these New Yorkers to improve and strengthen the neighborhood, borough and City that they call home.

Mr. Speaker, after five decades UPROSE remains an anchor in our community, fighting for justice and improving our community locally. I would ask all my colleagues to join me on their fifty years of progress and wish them the best for many more years of achievement and success.

HONORING THE SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA PROGRAM AND THE INAUGURAL SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA DAY IN DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Safe Communities America program and the inaugural Safe Communities America Day, which will take place in Dallas on October 5th. Safe Communities America is a program of the National Safety Council which recognizes communities that prioritize safety and take deliberate steps to improve the health and safety of its citizens. I am proud to say that the first Safe Communities Day will be celebrated in Dallas, which was the first U.S. city—and first urban city worldwide—to be accredited as an International Safe Community. In fact, the City of Dallas has proudly retained its accreditation since 1996.

The City of Dallas and its local partners have worked tremendously hard to improve the safety and security of our communities in Texas. For over 20 years, the City of Dallas has been implementing Operation Installation, a residential fire safety program. The Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas has teamed up with the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to go door-to-door, installing smoke alarms at homes in neighborhoods most impacted by fire-related deaths, resulting in a 74 percent decrease in fire deaths. Since its inception, this partnership has installed more than 30,000 smoke alarms, covering 42,000 residents.

More recently, Dallas Safe Communities has implemented PHOTOVOICE, a project that teaches middle school students how to use a camera and photographs to improve pedestrian safety in the Vickery Meadow area. Students are getting involved in their communities by taking photographs of broken sidewalks, absent sidewalks, damaged pedestrian signals and share their "story" with city officials to advocate for improved safety.

Our neighboring City of Fort Worth has also been an accredited Safe Community since 2013. A variety of services are being offered around the city in order to have a comprehensive approach to fall prevention, including free home safety evaluations to seniors via the local fire department, education to first-responders on home safety hazard recognition, Matter of Balance classes, an evidence based-approach to falls prevention, offered to older adults through multiple community partners, STEADI (fall screening and intervention) training for local physicians and medication management via pharmacists and Meals on Wheels. With one of the fastest growing elder populations in Texas, the Ft. Worth coalition is committed to keeping older adults injury free.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, in conjunction with local organizations, are taking the lead to promote safety within our communities. I would also like to reiterate my support for the Safe Communities America program, which has proven to be a tremendous initiative led by the National Safety Council. This program has helped to create safer environments in our neighborhoods while engaging local citizens and encouraging individuals of all ages to become active members of their communities.

COMMEMORATING MRS. FRANCISCA MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Gold Star Mother and Laredoan Mrs. Francisca Martinez.

Mrs. Martinez was born September 3, 1911, in Linares, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to parents Jesus Jasso and Francisca Trevino Jasso. She immigrated to the United States when she was fourteen years old. Her family settled in Laredo, Texas, and she soon became a United States citizen. Mrs. Martinez later met Enrique Martinez who would become her husband in 1929.

Francisca was a proud mother of eight children, Estanislado, Guadalupe, Petra, Maria Antonietta, Enrique, Jesus, Antonio, and Maria Aurora. Five of her sons served in the United States Army. Her oldest son, Estanislado Martinez, was wounded in the Korean War and her second eldest, Sgt. First Class Guadalupe Martinez, a Green Beret, was killed in action during the Vietnam War. It is because of her son's brave service and sacrifice that she became a member of the American Gold Star Mothers Organization.

Francisca was affectionately called "Panchita" by those close to her, who remember her passion and commitment to serving the community. She instilled a sense of service and charity in all her children. Francisca spent her life caring for others, continuing to volunteer at the local food bank on a weekly basis even into her later years.

Mrs. Martinez is survived by her sons, Jesus and Antonio Martinez; her daughters, Petra Hill and Maria Aurora Gutierrez; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and countless friends. Her legacy will live on in Laredo and she will be remembered for the countless lives that she touched in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the life of Francisca "Panchita" Martinez.

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE A. ELLIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, Jacqueline A. Ellis. Sadly,